

2010-4 - Evidence-Based Residential Service, Discharge and Re-Entry Service Demonstration Projects

- Application deadline, May 15, 2009 5:00 pm
- JGA contact person: Janice Marquez, Grant Manager, Janice.marquez@dc.gov, 202-727-0605
- Eligibility
 - Non-profit or for-profit community based organizations
 - District and Federal government agencies
- Funding
 - JAG Recovery Act (Justice Assistance Grant)
 - \$2,000,000 to support up to 6 awards.
 - 12 months commencing 10/1/09, FY2010
 - Match: no match requirement. However, willingness to match with cash or in-kind will be weighted in scoring.
- Key Criteria
 - Juvenile and Criminal justice
 - Demonstration projects piloting evidence based service or systems improvement to reduce prisoner re-entry recidivism rates
 - Technical assistance, training, data collection and analysis and evaluation activities to assess the impact of the demonstration project
 - Applicant must use funds to support all required/necessary aspects of the proposed evidence based practice
- Programmatic Reporting
 - Due by last day of the month of each FY Quarter, Dec. 31, March 31, June 30, Sept. 30 (anything not collected must be submitted with the next report)
 - Additional Recovery Act Performance Measures (pg 7)
 - Reimbursements withheld until reporting complete
 - Failure to comply could result in grant termination
- Financial Reporting
 - Electronic Request for Reimbursement accompanied by
 - Scanned supporting documentation
 - No later than 15th of month following end of Quarter, Jan. 15, April 15, July 15, Oct. 15 (pg 8)
- Monitoring
 - Minimum of annual site visit
- Application Deadline
 - Electronic application to Janice.marquez@dc.gov by May 15, 5:00 pm
 - Late applications will not be accepted

General Introduction – Josh Weber:

Nationally and in the District, recidivism rates are as high for youth and adults returning from a period of incarceration as 60-80% within three years. The emphasis of this RFA is on demonstration projects for high-risk offenders to improve their reentry outcomes. This RFA emphasizes the piloting of prisoner reentry evidence-based practices. There is a lot of literature on both the supervision and the service side related to prisoner reentry; you can find information on the websites of a number of organizations including the Urban Institute; the Washington State Institute of Public Policy does a great deal of research on best practices; the BJA (Bureau of Justice Assistance) website; and the National Institute of Corrections. The application must reference the literature and empirical support for the demonstration activities that you are proposing. The emphasis is on linking reentry to the overall process of an offenders' experience in the criminal justice system; reentry should begin at incarceration, and if possible, the application should include a specific continuum of reentry services to meet the needs. This is difficult to do with offenders in the custody of BOP (Bureau of Prisons) since they are all over the nation and the District does not have direct control of or access to this population. However, collaborations with DYRS and DOC to establish a continuum of services is possible. Also, give thought to evaluation not just discrete data collection activities, and include someone in your application that can help develop an evaluation from the start. Have letters of support from the start for the project.

There is the possibility of continued funding if there are successful outcomes. If an applicant wants to propose a two-year project, then you can include budgets for year two within context, but JGA want to see the long-term investment explained and a discrete, coherent set of program activities should be proposed and implemented in year one.

The feds are still finalizing the Recovery Act details. JGA will share details as they become available. Grantees may report directly to the feds. As you think through the project, keep in mind that there will be a higher level of scrutiny and accountability given that these are Recovery Act funds.

Questions/Answers:

Q - Will more than one award be granted to one organization?

A – Not as the lead applicant, but if an organization is a partner with another applicant then that is possible. The award amounts and number are not fixed. The 2 million is an approximation of funds available. Also, the application is open to both service and system improvement projects. A systems improvement and service project collaboration, for example is the Superior Court's Fathering Court, which JGA is currently funding.

Q - Explain a demonstration project more?

A – The key about a demonstration project is saying that we want to pilot a new evidence based practice because the applicant believe that it will have a particular effect. The

implementation of the project, and the resulting evaluation, will test out this proposal and determine whether it is something that should be supported, expanded, and replicated. We don't want to see applicants that just ask for money to provide services. JGA wants to see an application that proposes an evidence based practice for providing services to this target group that will reduce recidivism rates, and that the applicant is partnering with the necessary agencies to provide training, technical assistance, support, and evaluation of these new services/systems improvements.

Q - In terms of the target population, is there a particular release date you are looking for in terms of how long they are in facility vs. the community?

A – No, but since the focus is on reentry, then obviously there needs to be significant time spent in the community. JGA wants a community-based component, but if the project is testing out, for example, a model of discharge planning and services that involves six months in facility and six months in the community that is okay.

Q – Is there a limit to the number of applications an applicant may submit?

A – Only one application as the lead entity. As a partner entity on an application, there is no limit.

Q – Will technical assistance and training have to be conducted through a non-profit?

A - Not necessarily.

Q – Is there a provision for submitting non-electronic applications?

A – If it is necessary, JGA can accommodate hard copies, however, it is preferable that applications be submitted electronically. If a particular document cannot be submitted electronically, JGA can accommodate the applicant.

Q - Is there a focus on high-risk individuals, for example, BOP (Bureau of Prisons) context? Is there more focus on DOC (Dept. of Corrections) or BOP?

A – There is a focus on high-risk offenders, but there is a subset of offenders in DOC custody that are high risk and we would encourage you to have that conversation with them. JGA doesn't want to spend a lot of time and funds on low risk populations where data reveals that providing services is not always cost effective.

Q - In terms of letters of support, CSOSA (Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency), BOP if the applicant is working with halfway houses the applicant will have support, but if the applicant is trying to partnering with a federal agency, do they need a letter from them?

A - Yes, if the applicant is working with CSOSA or BOP then the applicant needs evidence that the applicant has talked to them and thought through the application with

them. The District of Columbia and federal agencies could be partners or give letters of support. District of Columbia and Federal agencies are aware of the JGA RFAs.

Q - Our organization may get CSOSA money. Do we get a partnership from CSOSA or the District of Columbia?

A - It depends on the population you are working with. If the population is CSOSA supervised offenders then obtain a letter from them.

Q – We have a contract, so is the letter coming from our sub-organization that has the contract with CSOSA or our parent organization?

A - From both.

Q – Are letters of support included in the page limitation? Are any of the attachments part of the 20 page limit?

A - Letters of support are not part of the page limitation. The program narrative section of the application is not to exceed 20 pages (page 13 of RFA). The cover page, budget, certifications, etc. are also not part of the 20 page limit. So, the limitation was really created to put a limit on the scope of narrative and sustainability plan.

Q – Should applications be single or double-spaced?

A – The application does not say. Double-spaced is preferred.

Q – For the applicants selected will there be some training on reporting requirements?

A - Yes, as part of our standard process JGA will conduct orientations on programmatic and financial forms and reporting and the specifics of the JAG Recovery Act funds training once it is identified.

Q - What is the maximum allowable indirect costs percentage for the proposed budgets?

A - JGA policy is that we do not pay indirect costs, our strong suggestion in budget preparation is to use our forms and identify your costs within the given budget categories.

Q - Can we obtain the application as a word document?

A - Yes. The Office of Partnerships and Grants Development website contains the JGA RFAs in a word document at <http://opgd.dc.gov>

Q –Are additional points awarded to applicants for using all four of the partners mentioned in RFA (Section A of part II)?

A – JGA will consider applications as stronger if they are as collaborative and cohesive as possible. As long as it addresses all components, it will be a stronger application.

Q – The RFA describes (page 5) securing support from at least two or more of the following partners: a residential facility, service provider, supervision entity, technical assistance provider, evaluator. With respect to DYRS who currently oversees the supervision of youth once released from DYRS, upon their reentry?

A - A certain percentage of youth are still under custody on re-entry, but not all. Most youth get some DYRS after-care supervision, but if an applicant wants to focus on those not under DYRS supervision then it is acceptable.

Q - How much does that overlap with DYRS' reorganizing of service coalitions?

A - It is independent from that. But, have had a conversation with DYRS for collaboration and cooperation and organizations proposing working with the DYRS population will likely need to fall under the service coalition structure. Applicants should ensure that DYRS shows that they approve of the project being proposed.

Q - Is that considered a match under this application for scoring?

A – No. When we talk about matching it is specific to the proposed project rather than the general funding of partners, supporters, etc.

Q - If an applicant is partnering with others, is it wise to demonstrate what they are providing?

A - Yes, in terms of how JGA considers match resources that are specifically supporting the project being proposed, not just general resources available for the target population.

Q – Assuming 20 years is too long to focus on reentry for incarcerated individuals, what is the minimum?

A – JGA doesn't want to place a minimum. However, it is a 12 month grant, so if the goal is to focus on reentry, an applicant will need at least a couple of months of reentry time in the community.

Q –The RFA mentions funding being available for more than 12 months. You suggested that if the project will be going for more than 12 months, then you want us to provide a budget for the extended period?

A – You need to demonstrate a coherent project within a 12 month period, but if you feel for the success of the project for the long term, you want a 2nd year of funding, particularly in terms of obtaining a more formal evaluation around the effectiveness of the project then you can provide a second year budget as well.

Q – Is the idea to continue to work with the same population, or, in a second year, a second population doing the same with an assessment?

A - It depends upon the nature of the demonstration project proposed but JGA is not in the business of becoming a long term funded of the same project activities. The goal should be to pilot something that can be supported in a sustainable way with other funds. Potentially, JGA could support a second year with a expanded or slightly different project population to test whether activities can be successfully replicated

Q - If we have questions as we move forward, to whom do we send them?

A - Send them to Janice.marquez@dc.gov

Q – Will those participants who consent be posted on the website?

A. Yes

Q - Who will review the applications?

A - An independent review panel will review and provide advisory recommendations to JGA. However, JGA has the final decision.

Q – At page 4 of the RFA, it requires an outside evaluation, can you elaborate on that requirement? If an organization has an internal research department, managed and operated separately from the proposed project would it be possible to engage them in the evaluation piece of things? Can we use our research services to meet that component?

A - If you have internal expertise and can demonstrate that, then express it in your application. Just make a strong case. First, JGA would like thought devoted to ongoing data collection and analysis on the implementation experience of the demonstration project, which could be done internally. Second, JGA wants to see some attention to an outcomes evaluation regarding short and long-term outcomes for recidivism. This kind of rigorous evaluation can be very expensive, but the applicant needs to do what it can. JGA encourages applicants to talk to or partner with those who have that ability.

Q – A point of clarification, there are two levels of reporting requirements, JGA and Recovery Act?

A - Yes, JGA will incorporate this into training for grant award winners, the JGA reporting requirements and the additional level of reporting requirements associated with the Recovery Act funds. The RFA mentions those on page 5 and 6. The applicant doesn't have to speak specifically to those identified on page 7, just know that they may be required.

Q – On the juvenile side, where do we get the statistics on population profiles?

A – Aggregate numbers can be obtained from DYRS.

Q – If the community has challenges gathering that data, can you give us the name of a contact?

A – Applicants should have a general conversation with DYRS, explain that you are applying for this JGA RFA, and they will likely be happy to assist.

Q – Will grants be accepted in advance with guidance or direction on corrections to be made for their acceptance?

A- No. All submissions are final submissions.

By agreement, these Bidders' Conference attendees will be posted on the website to facilitate discussion among applicants.

Attendees:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Joy Jones	Psychiatric Institute of Washington	jjones@piw-dc.com
Tara Leaman	Our Place, DC	tleaman@ourplacedc.org
Ashley McSwain	Our Place, DC	amcswain@ourplacedc.org
Hilary Viens	Community Education Group	hilary@communityeducationgroup.org
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Vinita Bhaskar	Vera Institute for Justice	vbhaskar@veradc.org
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